
A Short History Of
First Baptist Church

MIDALE, SASKATCHEWAN,
CANADA



Published on
the occasion of its Jubilee
and held in conjunction of the
Forty-Sixth Annual Assembly of the Central Canada
Baptist Conference
June 3 - 7
1953



Jubilee Theme—STAND FAST

Jubilee Hymn—

Lead on O King Eternal, the day of march has come:
Henceforth in fields of conquest Thy tents shall be our home.
Thro' days of preparation Thy grace has made us strong,
And now, O King Eternal, we lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King Eternal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
And holiness shall whisper the sweet Amen of peace;
For not with swords loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums;
With deeds of love and mercy, Thy heavenly kingdom comes.

Lead on, O king Eternal, we follow, not with fears;
For gladness breaks like morning where'er Thy face appears;
Thy cross is lifted o'er us; we journey in its light:
The crown awaits the conquest; lead on. O God of Might.

Jubilee Verse—"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith
Christ hath made us free..." Galatians 5:1

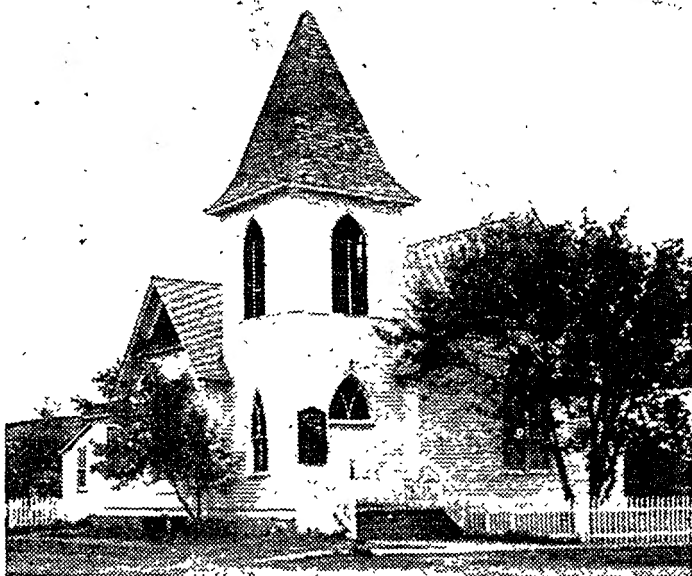


A SHORT HISTORY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

MIDALE, SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA

By Peter Hultgren

In the spring of 1903, a number of immigrants from various parts of the United States arrived to settle in Midale and district. These settlers, mostly young couples of Scandinavian origin, looked at the vast prairies with optimism and courage. With scarcely any capital at hand, plans were being made for the building of homes. No efforts were spared in bringing many acres of land under cultivation in order to make the new settlement to become a community



in which they and their children would like to live.

But these settlers realized "that man does not live by bread alone." For this reason, when the settlement was only a few weeks old, the first Christian service was held in Midale. One of the settlers, a gifted ordained minister, Rev. Olaf Sutherland, was asked to continue holding service. This he promised to do.

As the time went on, the believers of the same faith considered and discussed the possibilities of organizing a church. A meeting for this purpose was called for the 25th of October, 1903. At the time set for this meeting eighteen baptised believers were present. The organization of the church took place as had been planned. It was

decided that the name of the church should be The First Swedish Baptist Church of Midale, Saskatchewan.

The charter members were: Rev. and Mrs. Olof Sutherland, Mr. and Mrs. John L. Anderson, Mr. Halvor Englund, Mr. C. J. Erickson, Mr. and Mrs. Matt Erickson, Mrs. John Jern, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Jern, Mr. and Mrs. Elof Johnson, Mr. Edw. Peterson, Mr. and Mrs. Olof Wedin, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Westman.

At the conclusion of the meeting the members formed a ring in the room holding each others hands, while Rev. Sutherland called upon God in Heaven to guide and bless the new church that it might grow in number and be a power for good in the new community.

Now as we are looking back over the fifty years of the existence of our church, we find that nearly all of the faithful chartered members have gone to their reward. The only one still remaining as member is Mrs. Albertina Wedin.

In coming back to the beginning, we find that the dedication prayer has been answered.

In 1904 two members were added to the church. In 1905 five, in 1906 four, and in 1907 an increase of ten.

During 1907, the members and friendly neighbors were kept busy in building our House of Worship. This church building still stands as a worthy memorial in honor of the achievement accomplished by the early members of our church.

Much credit goes to Rev. Sutherland, the late Mr. Sam Molberg and Andrew Westman for their highly valuable part in the building program. Their memory and devotion to duty will always linger with the church.

The dedication service of the church on January 1, 1908, was highlighted by the presence of Missionary Rev. Fred Palmberg, who remained holding evangelistic services for a period of three weeks. During this campaign, the first major revival was witnessed in Midale. The increase in membership during 1908 was so great that it reached an even fifty new members.

Time does not permit to give a yearly account of membership and activity of the church during the following forty-five years, but a careful study of the minutes reveals that during the fifty-year period, three hundred and sixty-eight believers have been received into membership, which is an average of 7.4 per year.

A study of church history is interesting, but such a study is mixed with sorrow and regret, as many former members have passed away. A large number have moved to other parts of the continent. Out of the first one hundred members of our church there are only seven remaining as members of the church. These are Mrs. Albin Erickson, Mrs. Vivian Magnuson, Mrs. Anna Molberg, Mrs. Esther Peterson, Mrs. Albertina Wedin, Mr. David Anderson, and Mr. Peter Hultgren.

(Continued on page 6)

46th ANNUAL A
OF THE CENTRAL CANADA :

held in conjunction with the Jul
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MIDALE,

JUNE 3 - 7,

WEDNESDAY — June 3

3.00 p.m.—Conference Board Meeting.

—SUPPER.

7.30 p.m.—Introduction of new pastors

—Conference sermon—Rev. E. Avey

—Evangelistic challenge—Rev. Cully Olson.

THURSDAY, June 4

9.00 a.m.—Devotions—Rev. Wm. Turnwall.

9.30 a.m.—Business:

—Appointment of committees

—General Secretary's Report

—1953-54 Budget

—Treasurer's Report.

11.30 a.m.—Inspirational message—by a former pastor.

—DINNER.

1.15 p.m.—Motor-cade to the coal mines at Estevan.

—SUPPER.

7.30 p.m.—Evangelistic service—Rev. Cully Olson.

FRIDAY, June 5

9.00 a.m.—Devotions—Rev. Wm. Turnwall.

9.30 a.m.—Business:

—Election of Officers

—Report from resolutions and arrangements committees

—Unfinished business.

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
CANADA BAPTIST CONFERENCE

with the Jubilee Celebration of the
MIDALE, SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA

JUNE 3 - 7, 1953

FRIDAY—Continued

11.30 a.m.—Inspirational message—by a former pastor.

—DINNER.

2.00 p.m.—Ladies Meeting.

—SUPPER.

7.30 p.m.—JUBILEE SERVICE:

—History of the church

—Recognitions

—Greetings.

SATURDAY, June 6

9.30 a.m.—Devotions—Rev. Wm. Turnwall.

10.00 a.m.—Unfinished business.

11.30 a.m.—Inspirational message—by former pastor.

—DINNER.

2.00 p.m.—Unfinished business.

—SUPPER.

8.00 p.m.—Conference Youth Fellowship.

SUNDAY, June 7

10.00 a.m.—Sunday School—Local Superintendent.

10.45 a.m.—RE-DEDICATION SERVICE—Rev. Wm. Turnwall.

—DINNER.

2.30 p.m.—Messages from former pastors.

—SUPPER.

7.00 p.m.—Evangelistic Service—Rev. Cully Olson.

The present membership is eighty-six resident and twenty-eight non-resident members of the church. A total of one hundred and fourteen.

During the fifty years, twenty-one ministers and students have served as pastors of the church. The following are their names: Rev. Olaf Sutherland, Mr. Selly, Rev. Rockwood, Rev. Dixon, Rev. Pickle, Rev. Dickson, Rev. Yalland, Rev. Wick, Rev. Finstrom, Rev. Wicklund, Rev. Henry F. Widen, Rev. Ole Larson, Rev. Sidney B. Nilson, Rev. G. S. Fryklund, Rev. George Magnuson, Rev. Carl Antonson, Rev. Leonard Hultgren, Rev. C. Emerson, Rev. Vernon Slater, Rev. Ronald Dalzell, and Rev. Douglas Stimers.

To assist in this ministry, at certain intervals the church has called noted evangelists to conduct special revival services.

Through the years a goodly number of gifted young people from our church have entered various professions such as teaching, nursing, etc. Some have entered the Master's service and are now successful pastors or missionaries. Last year two served in God's Invasion Army. Again this year two are in the same service.

Over a fifty year period, a church will experience both hard and better times financially. This church is no exception. The "dusty thirties" will long be remembered as a period when people in this area had to learn to get along with little or practically no money. This condition was brought about by successive crop failures caused by frost, rust, drought and hordes of grasshoppers.

This church will ever be grateful to The Baptist General Conference of America and The Baptist Union of Western Canada for their assistance to our church during these hard times.

Now we are thankful to God for changed conditions. For a number of years the district has had fair crops and prices have been good for agricultural products. In 1946 the church became self-supporting. No particular hardship has been experienced in meeting the budget for home and foreign missions. In addition to the general financing of the church, individuals and The Ladies' Aid are supporting fourteen native pastors in India.

The membership of the church consists of different nationalities, so the word "Swedish" has been dropped from the name. This is in no way any reflection on the church as all the members look and act like Swedes—peaceful, harmonious, and of a friendly nature.

All branches or organizations of the church are in a healthy condition. The Sunday School has always been considered to be of greatest importance. On it depends, to a great degree, the future of the church. Our Sunday School has a fine record. Last year the average attendance was just under one hundred per Sunday. This in itself indicates that the teachers are very competent and conscientious in their way of teaching. In an effort for even greater efficiency in the art of teaching, the church has under the leadership of our pastor, a teacher training class, consisting of fourteen members. A few months ago our Sunday School added to its departments

a Cradle Roll. This has been under the able leadership of Mrs. Stimers who reports a total of fifteen babies on its Roll.

The B.Y.P.U. is also an active branch of the church. Ever since the early years of the settlement, the young people have conducted and carried on their own services. Our cordial Mr. David Anderson, was the first president of our B.Y.P.U. He was also the first Secretary-Treasurer of the Sunday School, and it has been reported that he dug the first shovel of dirt for the basement of our church. For years the B.Y.P.U. has published its own church paper known as The Gospel Echo. The name of this publication indicates its purpose and mission. It has a monthly circulation of three hundred and fifty copies. As editor, Miss Mabel Tisdale, deserves a great deal of credit for her outstanding ability and faithfulness.

The Ladies' Aid is an organization well-rooted and has stood the test since its beginning. Even throughout the hard times, this organization has not been really broke. When the church treasurer found himself to be down and out, the Ladies' Aid would come to his rescue and save the situation. The devotional period in the meetings has been an inspiration to the ladies throughout the years. This organization has a keen interest in missions. This has been shown by their adoption of a White Cross meeting which meets each month. While only three years old, the White Cross has already become an important part of the Ladies' Aid. This group includes all the ladies. They have sent many parcels of material aid to our Conference missionaries around the world.

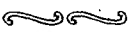
The church is also favored with a Junior and Senior choir. The Juniors sing for us at the Sunday morning services while the Senior choir renders one or two inspirational selections in the evening.

The mid-week Bible study and prayer meeting is comparatively well attended. There is an average attendance of one-third of our resident membership.

Our present pastor, the Rev. Douglas Stimers together with his wife, has served our church faithfully since the 15th of December, 1949. Mrs. Stimers is of great assistance to her pastor-husband, particularly as she is a noted soloist. The church has been blessed and has had steady progress during their ministry.

We hope and pray that their services will be long and fruitful in our church and in our conference.

We also hope and pray—if the Lord tarry—that God will bring even greater blessings and advancement to our church during the next fifty years.



OFFICERS — 1903

Chairman — Rev. O. Sutherland
Vice-chairman — John L. Anderson
Clerk — Elof Johnson
Treasurer — Ed. Peterson
Deacons — Samuel Molberg, August Anderson, Andrew Hultgren, C. O. Magnuson.
Trustees—Matt Erickson, Ole Wedin, Andrew Westman.

OFFICERS — 1953

Chairman — Rev. D. H. Stimers
Vice-chairman — Clarence Erickson
Treasurer — George Molberg
Deacons — C. H. Hatcher, Tom Nordby, John Molberg, Albert Larson
Deaconesses — Mrs. A. Wedin, Mrs. S. Molberg, Mrs. V. Magnuson
Trustees — Peter Hultgren, Art Englund, Stan Sjodin
Finance Committee — Dave Anderson, Dave Englund, Mrs. Mainprize, the treasurer and pastor.
Sunday School Superintendent — C. H. Hatcher
Ladies' Aid President — Mrs. W. G. Mainprize
Young People's President — Pearl Lindbom.



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Author, Title Hultgren, Peter. A short history of
the First Baptist Church. ...

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